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Letter dated 2 March 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a statement made by an official Iraqi spokesman to the Iraqi News Agency on 28 February 2002 in reply to statements of Mr. Tony Blair, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, in which he accused Iraq of continuing to produce weapons of mass destruction.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed A. **Aldouri**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 2 March 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Iraq announces its immediate readiness to receive a British mission sent by Tony Blair to ascertain the veracity of his allegations

Baghdad, 28 February 2002

Iraq has announced its immediate readiness to receive a British mission sent by British Prime Minister Tony Blair to check his allegations that Iraq is still producing weapons of mass destruction.

An authorized official spokesman made the following statement to the Iraqi News Agency: "In a recent statement, British Prime Minister Tony Blair alleged that Iraq was continuing to produce weapons of mass destruction. Blair frequently makes tendentious statements hostile to Iraq in keeping with the American position, without seeking to be accurate or basing himself on fact."

The spokesman added: "We say, however, that whoever has correct information regarding that allegation must know how and where Iraq is attempting to produce such weapons. If Blair tells us how and where and declares this before the world, we are immediately ready to receive a British mission sent by Tony Blair himself, accompanied by a group of British media persons to show us how and where."

The spokesman concluded his statement as follows: "We, for our part, shall be present with them on their tour of Iraq, represented by Iraqi, Arab and international media, ambassadors and representatives of States accredited in Iraq to document to the world the facts as they are and to show the world who is engaging in idle talk and who is telling the truth."